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Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—" May I ask the Hon. Member in charge whether it is not in the interests of the House to publish the opinions of the Collectors? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" I think the hon. Lady Friend will find in answer to (c) that the Collectors were generally consulted in 1931. They were not consulted recently on the matter and it seems to me that no object would be gained in publishing the opinions which were given in 1931."

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—" May I know why the opinions were not gathered recently? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" Because Government considered they had all the information necessary."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" What is the objection to place the report of the Board of Revenue before the House? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" I think that most of those who oppose the Bill do not like to read the report of the Board of Revenue on the Bill."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know if the Government have not consulted Collectors recently before they prepared the Bill? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" The answer is here. Collectors were not consulted on the present Bill before the House."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that there was a proposal to drop the Bill before the Select Committee? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" Yes, Sir, the majority of the Select Committee were against the proposal."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" In view of the knowledge of the Hon. the Revenue Member that all sections of the House are likely to oppose the Bill, has he considered the question of dropping the Bill? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" I do not anticipate what this Hon. House intends to do."

Irrigation

Failure of water in the Chepad channel, Proddatur taluk.

* 681 *Q.*—Mr. T. Narasa Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that water in the Chepad channel, Proddatur taluk, has been reduced this year and in consequence of which the paddy crops under this channel have suffered to a large extent;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that many sluices in the channel have been closed;

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(c) whether it is a fact that some sluices proposed to be opened have been delayed to be opened indefinitely;

(d) whether it is a fact that the assessment of water-rate is uneven under this project; and

(e) whether it is a fact that this project is working at a profit; if so, what the rate of interest realized on the capital outlay is?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (*c*) of question No. 298 answered on 30th October 1935.

(*e*) The information is not available as separate Capital and Revenue accounts are not kept for the project.

Mr. T. NARSA REDDI:—"With reference to the answer to clauses (*a*) to (*c*) in view of the fact that there is a large number of complaints from the ryots, will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Sir, I do not hear."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Will the Hon. Member make himself more audible?"

Mr. T. NARASA REDDI:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Sir, I think the public should approach the Public Works Department authorities or the Revenue authorities in this matter."

Alleged silting up of the Kaveripauk tank in the North Arcot district.

* 682 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the capacity and extent of the ayacut under the Kaveripauk tank and the income thereunder;

(*b*) whether, and how many times, it has gone dry during the past 20 years;

(*c*) the extent of the silt in the tank and when it was removed for the last time; and

(*d*) the extent of money spent for the removal of silt each year during the last ten years?

A.—(*a*) Capacity, 1,474 million cubic feet.
Ayacut, 5,959 acres.
Income, Rs. 48,974.

(*b*) The tank was never found to be dry in the rainy season, but it gets dry almost every year in the summer, i.e., for some time between the months of April and September, the usual rainy season for the locality and the Palar being from October to December.